



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AT AMHERST
Department of Environmental Health and Safety

May 5, 2010

Dear Faculty and Staff:

Environmental Health & Safety's Biological Safety Program is happy to provide the Testing and Certification for your biological safety cabinet again this year. The testing will take place during the week of May 17th, 2010.

EH&S is providing this testing to you free of charge this year as a continuation of our Biological Safety Cabinet Program. We have been managing the campus' inventory through Environmental Health and Safety's Biological Safety Program. The advantages of this are that we schedule all the required and necessary annual testing, repair and decontaminations. We can obtain the quotes for work directly from the contractor and save you time. For additional repair service beyond certification, you simply need to provide a purchase order and provide access to your laboratory. We are able to obtain contract pricing through B&V Testing at state contract rates.

In the first round of testing that took place in 2008, eight out of the one hundred cabinets that were tested, failed to meet the NSF certification requirements. An 8% failure rate is fairly high but we expected it to drop each year testing took place. Many cabinets/benches had not been tested in years. We know that by balancing the airflow in these cabinets (part of the annual testing process) and performing filter maintenance, we will have fewer failures in the future. In 2009 there were no cabinet failures and we expect for the same this year.

Biological safety cabinets/benches annual certifications are required by the CDC/NIH's *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories*, 5th Edition, (Appendix A; USHHS, 2008) and are an important investment in protecting your staff and research.

If you should have any questions on how to work safely with this equipment, or would like us to train you or others in your lab, please do not hesitate to contact us. The Biological Safety training schedule can be found at: www.ehs.umass.edu under the EH&S Trainings heading.

Regards,

Judy and Maureen

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